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- 1. Although it is officially permissible to sell or lease land after Communist land reform, those who have just received land free are not sure that they have the right to sell it, and no one buys land for fear that he may be regarded as wealthy.
- 2. A report by the policy-making office of the Land Reform Committee of North Anhwei on the problem of buying and selling land was made at an open discussion meeting by CH'EN Chung-shan (** ** ** **), a land reform deputy. The report included the following points:
 - a. Figures on land transfer in the villages of Ssuhung (河 洪) Hsien, where land redistribution took place from September 1949 to April 1950, are as follows:
 - (1). Land changing hands totalled 352.6 mou. Out of a total population of 2,085 families, 7.5 percent or 156 families had sold land and 6.7 percent or 141 families had bought land.
 - (2). Of the sellers, 7.9 percent were wealthy peasants; 25 percent were old middle peasants; 59.8 percent were new middle peasants; and 7.5 percent were poor peasants. No similar figures were given on buyers.
 - (3). Of the sellers, 35.5 percent spent the money they received from the sales on better land. Others sold land because they needed money for the necessities of life; for capital to start a new business; for wedding, funeral and sickness expenses; for cattle or farm implements or for building and repairing houses.
 - b. Some peasants anticipated that their land would increase in value in the future. Those who had money to spare often went to the poorer villages to buy land. As a consequence the price of land has risen abnormally, and land worth 300 catties of wheat per mou in 1950 may now be 600 catties. Land having good irrigation facilities brings 6,000 cattles of grain per mou.

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c. The poor and hired peasants are among the largest sellers because they are still lazy and the cost of living is high. Most of the buyers are Communist cadre members who received the larger shares of land and prize money at land reform. Other buyers are middle peasants who have been unaffected by land reform.

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d. Buying and selling land is permitted, as it has not been forbidden by law. The amount of land a man can lawfully possess has not been fixed by the Communist authorities, but unless some control is placed on land transfer, excessive possession will soon be general once more. The authorities are considering, among other measures, the imposition of a high land tax.

1. Comment. One of the aims of land reform is to stop" shearing the poor," but if a man has surplus land to lease, he commits this crime. Another aim is to break up excessive possession of land, but if sale of land is permitted, the land holding of certain people is sure to become excessive.

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